

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 2nd January 1897.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	20,000	26th December, 1896.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800	29th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	25th ditto	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,500	26th ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto ...	.....	26th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	About 500	23rd ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	25th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	26th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	800	23rd ditto.	
11	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	26th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	About 350	28th to 31st December, 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	1,000	27th to 31st December, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,250	30th December, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200	28th to 31st December, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	Read by 3,000	25th and 28th to 30th December, 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	24th December, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	10,000	28th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....	21st ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto ...	310	24th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	330	24th ditto.	
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	450		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	About 250	22nd ditto.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	550	27th ditto.	
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,145	25th ditto.	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	326	16th and 23rd December, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	25th December, 1896.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
Monthly.						
1	"Brahma " ...	Cuttack ...	160		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was re- vived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circula- tion in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
2	"Indradhanu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha " ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini " ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	"Samvad Vahika " ...	Balasore ...	190			
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad " ...	Ditto ...	309			
4	"Utkai Dipika " ...	Cuttack ...	480			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu " ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta " ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	17th December 1896.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch " ...	Bankipur ...	500	24th ditto.		
2	"Gaya Punch ...	Gaya ...	400	21st ditto.		
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Hindu Ranjika " ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	23rd ditto.		
2	"Rangpur Diprakash " ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number, 150 copies are distributed among the subscri- bers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
	"Kasipur Nivasi " ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244			
Weekly.						
1	"Barisal Hitaishi " ...	Barisal ...	.....	11th ditto.	
2	"Charu Mihir " ...	Mymensingh ...	900	3rd August and 21st De- cember, 1896.		
3	"Dacca Prakash " ...	Dacca ...	2,400	27th December, 1896.		
4	"Saraswat Patra " ...	Do. ...	About 440	26th ditto.		
5	"Vikrampur " ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	240	24th ditto.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette " ...	Dacca ...	500	28th ditto.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash " ..	Comilla ...	700			
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini " ...	Chittagong ...	120	11th and 25th December, 1896.		
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		

Date	Particulars	Debit	Credit	Balance
	To Balance b/d			
	By Balance b/d			
	To Cash			
	By Cash			
	To Bank			
	By Bank			
	To Sales			
	By Sales			
	To Purchases			
	By Purchases			
	To Wages			
	By Wages			
	To Rent			
	By Rent			
	To Interest			
	By Interest			
	To Dividends			
	By Dividends			
	To Profit & Loss			
	By Profit & Loss			
	To Balance c/d			
	By Balance c/d			
	To Cash			
	By Cash			
	To Bank			
	By Bank			
	To Sales			
	By Sales			

II. HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 16th December says that a youth named Nilkanta, a barber by caste and a resident of the Burdwan district, was decoyed from home by

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 16th, 1896.

A cooly case.

a cooly recruiter under the pretence that he would be given some employment in Calcutta and was sold as a cooly. He is now employed as a cooly in the Jackson (sic) tea-garden in Sylhet, whence he has written to his father asking him for ten rupees in order to enable him to escape from the garden and return home. His letter is as follows:—

“With many salutations I beg to inform you that, after leaving you, I have got into serious trouble and do not expect to see you again. I wrote you some letters, but have not received a reply to any of them. Two men enticed me away from Burdwan and sold me. I have no means of going away from this place; but if you send me ten rupees, I shall bribe the old men and fly away. I am much emaciated, and my anxieties and the labour of digging to which I am subjected will make me die. I have nothing more to write, but I must ask you to give a prompt reply to this letter and remove my anxieties by informing me how all at home are doing.”

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 22nd December says that on the 14th

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 22nd, 1896.

Highway robbers in the Burdwan district.

December last, when Bihari Lal Datta, a pressman employed in the press of this paper, was at 7-30 P.M., going home to Chandule, he was attacked

near the Kesabganj outpost by about a dozen men, who so severely beat him with *lathis* that his leg was broken. His cries did not call forth a single man to his help from the outpost, and the robbers fled only on the appearance of a man from the next village, whom Bihari's cries had brought to the scene. The dacoits committed a dacoity the same night at Jinguti.

3. *Al Punch* of the 24th December says that Munshi Ajaib Lall, Police

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 24th, 1896.

A high-handed and corrupt police-officer in Bihar.

Sub-Inspector of Bihar subdivision of the Patna district, very much ill-treats the Muhammadans of the place. The late Hindu-Musalman quarrel in

connection with the Ganesha procession was mainly due to that officer's instigation. He blasphemed the Muhammadan religion, and brought a false charge against Shaikh Ekram Ali, Vice-Chairman of the Bihar Municipality for having demolished the idol of Ganesha. He ill-treats respectable residents of the place and excuses himself by saying that he does so under official orders. It is said that he is addicted to taking bribes and takes food-articles for daily consumption from his subordinates without paying any price.

4. One Muhammad Meherulla of Jessore writes as follows in the *Mihir-o-*

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

Oppression of a Musalman tenant on the Narail estate.

Sudhakar of the 26th December:—

How horrible! Has British rule come to an end in India, or has it already become, as the saying goes, a ghost of itself before its death? Or has it paled before the reviving prowess of the Hindus in the same way as the lustre of the morning star fades before the glowing light of the rising sun? You Englishmen, if you have become weak in comparison with the Hindus, if you have become powerless to protect the honest and put down the wicked, if you are unable in these times of distress to protect your weak, poor and helpless Musalman subjects from the oppressions of base, cruel and murderous wretches, then you must say so plainly and let the Musalmans take care of themselves as best they can. In the hope of receiving from you a redress of our grievances, we have too long borne in silence the brutal *zulm* of the Hindus. The Musalmans' cries of agony have pierced the heavens; but, alas! you, whose hearts were moved by the cries of the Armenian subjects of far off Turkey, appear quite unmoved by the heaven-piercing cries of your own oppressed subjects. O British Government! so long as we have sense left we will cry at your door, whether you listen to our cries or not. But Heaven alone can say what will become of you when we lose our sense under this intolerable oppression. We do not know if the Narail estates' Pangsa catchery affair has attracted your notice. The last issue of this paper contained an account of the oppression committed by Babu Jogendra Chandra Rai of Tailkup in the Jessore district, upon a Muhammadan

raiyat of his (Report on Native Papers for 26th December, paragraph 5). Here is a fresh instance of oppression committed on a raiyat of the Narail zamindari. Gayespur is a village in the Naldanga thana of the Jessore district and is included in the zamindari of Babus Kali Das Rai and Kiran Chandra Rai of Narail. One Maulvi Abdur Rauf, a resident of the village, not venturing, for fear of his Hindu zamindars, to slaughter a cow in his own house, had, in the month of Bhadra last, purchased 8 annas' worth of beef in the neighbouring village of Saitbaria, which is situated in another man's zamindari, and ate it with his whole family. As soon as this news reached the ears of Ram Dayal Singh, naib of the Mastafapur cutcherry of the Narail estate, he was all on fire, and immediately despatched three *barkandazes*, Madhu Singh, Dwarik Singh and Achhmat Sheikh, with strict orders to arrest the Maulvi. On the first day of the search for the Maulvi, the men met Miyajan Biswas, elder brother of the Maulvi and a panchayet of the village, and brought him to the cutcherry. The naib, according to his habit, foully abused him and ordered him to pay a fine of Rs. 104. After much entreaty and on making certain conditions, Miyajan was allowed to return home. The next day under the *zulf* of the *barkandazes* the Maulvi and his elder brother had both to appear in the cutcherry. The Maulvi paid Rs. 16 as fine, and in order to obtain a remission of the remaining Rs. 88 of the fine, went to Narail to make a representation to the zamindars. The naib, too, hearing of the Maulvi's departure for Narail, started for the place. The Maulvi first went to Babu Kiran Chandra, and though the naib did his best to justify his own action, he obtained justice at the hands of the zamindar, who ordered half the fine levied, that is to say his share of it, to be refunded. Thus foiled before Kiran Babu, the naib went to Kali Das Babu and related to him all the circumstances of the case. That wretch who had bought cow's flesh from elsewhere and eaten it within a Hindu's zamindari, that beef-eating wretch of a Maulvi has ventured to come to Narail! The goddess Kali in her world-destroying mood seemed to inspire Kali Das Babu with her fury and he cried out "বেটাকে জলদি পাকরনাও." A well-wisher of the Maulvi's brought him the news of this order, and for fear of being insulted he at once fled to the thana. The thana men and some respectable people of the place having advised the Maulvi not to appear before Kali Das Babu, he secretly fled home. Kali Das Babu's temper is known to every body. His order, therefore, has strengthened the hands of his naib. As for the Maulvi, there is no escape for him now. Bands of *barkandazes* have been sent out in search of him, and he has no alternative but to conceal himself for fear of his life. He cannot venture to lodge a complaint against a zamindar, at whose name the police itself trembles. As a penalty for eating 8 annas' worth of beef, the Maulvi has been already put to an expense of Rs. 45, and no one knows what other penalty he will have still to pay. We, therefore, ask you, you English, whether we should look upon the Hindus as the lords of India, and consider your own rule at an end. If not, then listen to our cries. If you do not mind our cries, you will before long find your cherished dependency thrown into a terrible disturbance.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.
Dec. 26th, 1896.

5. The Pangsa correspondent of the same paper has communicated to it copy of the report which has been submitted to the District Superintendent of Police, Faridpur, by the Police Inspector of the place, on the subject of the oppressions committed upon Musalman raiyats by the men of the Narail estate cutcherry:—

"To—The District Superintendent of Police, Faridpur.

"SIR,

"In pursuance of your order attached hereto, I have the honour to submit the following report:—

"From the local investigation I held and the depositions of the witnesses I examined, in order to ascertain the truth of the allegations made in the newspapers in connection with the celebration of the *Bakr-id* festival in Bhellabaria and Jalilpara, within the jurisdiction of the Pangsa thana, I have come to the conclusion that a horrible and illegal act was committed in those two villages after the late *Bakr-id* festival. I am surprised that for fear of

future oppression the oppressed people did not venture to inform the police of the cruel outrages to which they were subjected, and I am afraid that the same fear will deter the witnesses from giving their depositions in open court. Their fear is perfectly justifiable."

The editor observes that if the correspondent has given the Inspector's report correctly, then Government ought to be particularly careful that the oppressed raiyats get justice in the law court.

6. The *Sanjivani* of the 26th December complains that a Bengali gentleman of the name of Babu Satyacharan Sastri was arrested by the Bombay police at Korhgaon on his way from Puna to Kolahpur. He was kept in police custody for a whole day and then released. Babu Satyacharan is the author of the *Life of Sivaji* in Bengali, but no one can say why he was arrested by the police and on what authority. Babu Satyacharan did not lodge a complaint against the police for want of time, but he ought to have done so, as he could have thereby made the police give an explanation of their conduct. It is a matter of grave anxiety that a Bengali gentleman on travel bent should be unlawfully arrested by the Bombay police. The Bombay Government should institute an inquiry into the matter to prevent its fair fame from being tarnished.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

7. The same paper writes as follows:—

Indigo oppression in Bihar. The indigo-planters are all powerful in Bihar. The Magistrates and the planters are generally intimate friends of each other, and whenever a charge is brought against an employé of an indigo concern the Magistrate entrusts its European Manager with an inquiry into the matter. By this *gharao* (domestic) arrangement, so to speak, the accused is entrusted with an inquiry into the charge brought against himself. The tea-planter and the indigo-planter are, as a matter of fact, the masters of Bengal. The indigo-planters of Bihar are trying to pass for friends of the people. They have succeeded in hoodwinking the Government and ingratiating themselves into its favour. These enemies in the guise of friends are doing the people great mischief, and have almost become the cause of their ruin. The people get no justice against the indigo-planters. Their complaints against them are not even inquired into.

SANJIVANI.

All these statements are borne out by two indigo cases brought to the notice of the Government by the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji in one of his interpellations at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council. These two cases disclose a painful state of things. There was clear miscarriage of justice in these two cases, due to the fact that the accused were in a manner entrusted with the inquiry into the charges brought against themselves. Many Bihari raiyats have been virtually ruined by the oppressive indigo-planters, but they dare not complain. Justice is denied to them in the law courts, and there is no remedy against the tyranny of the indigo planters. Is there no Long in Bihar to put down this shameful tyranny and oppression—no Eden among the Civilians of the present day?

8. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the Mymensingh police has failed to trace the offenders implicated in the Nalitabarhi dacoity case. Some people who were ill-treated by the Jamalpur police in connection with this case have prosecuted the Inspector and a few other police officers. It was said that the District Police Superintendent and a few other able police officers would investigate the case. December is all but gone, but no investigation is yet heard of.

SANJIVANI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains of oppression committed upon innocent people by a number of Musalman *badmashes* in the villages of Raghunathpur, Sirsa and Dharum in the Pirojpur subdivision of the Backergunge district. These ruffians forcibly take possession of other people's lands and cut and carry away their standing crops. Law suits are of no avail against them, as they set the decisions of the law courts at naught. No one ventures to bear witness against them for fear of their houses being set on fire, their cattle poisoned, and their women insulted. Is there no one to put a stop to their oppression?

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

10. A correspondent of the same paper complains of chaukidari tax oppression in Samastipur in the Darbhanga district. It is the rule to collect this tax every quarter, but the tax collectors are in many cases collecting the tax for two quarters at once. This is a very great hardship to poor people.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 3rd, 1896.

11. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd August, received on the 31st December, complains that Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca, once wrote to the Deputy Magistrate of Manikganj that if he did not pass severe sentences in excise cases, he would receive such an order as he would never forget in his life. How can a subordinate judicial officer be expected to conscientiously do his duty under such chastisement?

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 11th, 1896.

12. The *Sansodhini* of the 11th December complains of the conduct of the District Magistrate of Chittagong, who has issued the following notice to the Mohant of Tulsi Das Mohunt's *akhra* in Chittagong:—

"Whereas it has been brought to my notice that you are in the habit of disturbing the public peace by blowing conches, ringing bells and sounding other musical instruments, you are hereby informed that you shall not do the same from 7 P.M. to 7 A.M., after the receipt of this notice. You are further warned that if you fail to carry out this order, you shall be criminally prosecuted."

Now, the *akhra* above-mentioned has been in existence for a long time, and the blowing of conches and ringing of bells have gone on there for a long time. The European residents of the locality have never before complained of any disturbance of their peace. Even Mr. Oldham, who is a particularly sensitive man, did not take any notice of the music complained of by the present District Magistrate. His order will interfere with the performance of religious ceremonies by a large section of the Hindu community of Chittagong. The Mohunt applied for a copy of the rule or procedure under which the above mentioned notice was issued. His application has not been granted.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 21st, 1896.

13. The *Charu Mihir* of the 21st December has the following:—

A vindictive prosecution by the Kishorganj Police in the Mymensingh district.

One Kalu Sheikh having given evidence in a certain case against Alim Uddin, Sub-Inspector of the Nikli thana in the Kishorganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district, the latter lodged before the Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj a complaint against Kalu under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. On Kalu's application, the case was transferred to the Sadar, where it was heard by Ganga Narayan Babu and dismissed. But the Kishorganj police was determined not to be foiled. It lodged a fresh complaint against Kalu under the same section. The Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj at first enlarged Kalu on a bail of Rs. 200, but the bail was afterwards increased to Rs. 500, and Kalu was required to be present in Court every day. After a few days the Deputy Magistrate went into the mufassal, and Kalu taking the opportunity went to the Sadar and moved the District Magistrate for a transfer of the case. The papers of the case have accordingly been sent for by the District Magistrate. But in the meantime the Deputy Magistrate has forfeited Kalu's bail and distrained and sold by auction all his property. In doing so, the Deputy Magistrate has acted very wrongly, for, from the remark made by Ganga Narayan Babu in the previous case, viz, that "the apparent spirit of vindictiveness displayed by the Sub-Inspector cannot be too strongly condemned," he ought to have seen through the machinations of the police. It is hoped that Mr. Harris will save this man from further police oppression.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th December writes as follows:—

The case of an outraged woman in the Mymensingh district.

Outrage on female honour in the Mymensingh district is neither a new nor a rare occurrence. We have referred many times to the evil, but unfortunately the evil still remains unremedied. Sometime ago we referred to the

case of Anna Kaivartini. The poor woman has now sent us a letter which we cannot help printing here. The letter is so pathetic that one can hardly restrain one's tears in reading it. If, what she says, be true, anguish and disgrace, such as she has suffered, must be the portion of many other women in Mymensingh.

"Sir,

Knowing that the publication of the following story will afford my anguished heart some relief, I have, with great difficulty, got some boys to write it for me. I am myself an illiterate woman.

I hear that my unfortunate name was published in your paper in the month of Aswin last. Lay me this day, too, under an obligation by making room for my story.

In the month of Bhadra, Rameswar Kaivarta entered into my room and attacked me with a view to violate my chastity, and two other persons stood at the door and directed that I should be carried away. I screamed. My brother, who was in the same house with me, and my neighbours awoke at my cry and saw the ruffians. I complained to the Subdivisional Officer of Kishorganj who summoned the accused Rameswar under sections 354 and 448 of the Indian Penal Code. But unfortunately for me the case was made over to the Kishorganj Bench. An Honorary Magistrate tried the case and framed charges under the above two sections. But he subsequently let off the accused, I know not why. But two days before passing judgment (when evidence had been taken on both sides) he declared that he could discover no reason why a false charge of this nature should be instituted against the accused. Why was the accused then acquitted? Will the High Court examine the papers of my case? I am a young, helpless beggar-woman, without father or mother. If it be true that "the Sovereign is the strength of the weak" the High Court should examine the papers of my case. It will satisfy them that it may be possible for a desert to be watered by a river, but it is not possible for the man accused by me to be (fairly) acquitted. Dire anarchy and oppression prevail in Mymensingh. Alas! women hold their chastity dearer than even their children. We can forget the loss of our children, but the loss of our honour we cannot forget, either in this present wretched existence or in a future one.

If I had money I should not have had to suffer and weep so much. There would have been trial after trial. In the anguish of my heart I have raved like one gone mad. If any generous person takes pity upon me, I can send him the papers of my case for preferring an appeal. Is there any man kind and generous enough to work for me without money? Dated the 6th Paus, 1303, B.S.

15. The same paper has received from a trustworthy Jalpaiguri correspondent various complaints against the local Deputy Magistrate, Babu Jagaddurlabh Basak, one of these complaints being that the Deputy Magistrate is in the habit of filthily abusing parties and witnesses. If the Deputy Magistrate really behaves in the way he is said to do, many unpleasant facts relating to his conduct will probably be divulged.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

16. The same paper writes as follows:—

Sir Antony MacDonnell on the relation of Deputy Magistrates to the police. A Deputy Magistrate in the North-Western Provinces refused to *salaam* the District Superintendent of Police when instructed by the District Magistrate to do so, and Sir Antony MacDonnell has therefore degraded him. Sir Antony is said to have observed in this connection that everybody ought to know that Deputy Magistrates are subordinate to District Superintendents of Police. This is an alarming view of the Deputy Magistrate's position. Sir Charles Elliott was for making Deputy Magistrates entirely subordinate to the District Magistrates. Is Sir Antony MacDonnell bent upon outdoing Sir Charles that he must have Deputy Magistrates own subordination to District Superintendents of Police as well? Or has the agitation against the union of the executive and judicial functions in one and the same officer irritated him into running counter to public feeling? We hope that Sir Antony will withdraw his objectionable remark, or failure of justice will become far more frequent in the country.

HITAVADI.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

17. In reference to the reply given to the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath's interpellation in the Bengal Council relating to the Muzaffarpur District Magistrate's mode of enquiry into a case against a tahsildar of an Indigo Factory, the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th December makes the following observations:—

We must be content with the reply, because we have no alternative but to be content. When the authorities consider the injured man's grievances sufficiently redressed by the measures taken, we, too, must consider his grievances sufficiently redressed. But we must ask one question. Is it proper to keep the charge of a district in the hands of a Magistrate, who does not see anything wrong in conducting an enquiry on the line on which the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur conducted the enquiry into the case in question? Government has directed all Divisional Commissioners to see that no Magistrate commits such an irregularity in future. But has any one ever heard of a Civilian being cured of his faults by a mere paper order? The present case came to Government's knowledge, because it chanced to be noticed in the newspapers. But who can say that every such case of irregularity of procedure will, in future, come to the knowledge of the higher authorities? And what guarantee can the Government give that such cases will not happen? As for the Commissioners exercising a check upon the Magistrates, who ever saw a Commissioner trying to control, or go against, a Civilian Magistrate? Everybody will remember how Mr. Cooke conducted the enquiry which, as Commissioner of the Orissa Division, he was ordered to make into the conduct of his subordinate Joint-Magistrate, Mr. Radice.

The Deputy Magistrate who received the complaint of the raiyat wrote in his order:—"The case is by a raiyat against an Indigo Factory tahsildar; unless the District Magistrate direct otherwise, the case shall be sent to some Court on the date fixed." Government, in its reply, did not explain this order. Did it not clearly mean that a Deputy Magistrate of Muzaffarpur cannot, without the District Magistrate's special permission, try a case in which anybody connected with an Indigo Factory is in the position of the accused? Justice will not be done in such cases so long as Civilians, like the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, are allowed to exercise judicial power.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

18. The residents of Bhowanipur, within the jurisdiction of the Hashnabad post-office in the Dacca district, who possess licenses for fire-arms, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 26th December, complain of the extortions which are committed by the Collectorate amla in connection with the renewal of licenses. The money they exact is five to six times the prescribed fee. As a remedy, licenses should be made renewable at the Subdivisional headquarters, or their owners should be permitted to send them for renewal to the head-quarters of the district by post and have renewed licenses through the same agency.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

19. The *Som Prakash* of the 28th December cannot say why two or three Honorary Magistrateships in Santipur, in the Nadia district, have been allowed to remain vacant for so long a time. For the sake of public convenience, the vacancies should be filled up without delay. Babu Nikunja Bihari Lahiri, M.B., and Babu Jatindra Chandra Rai should be appointed to two of them. And, if there is a third vacancy, that should go to a Musalman, as there is a very large Muhammadan population in Santipur town and within the jurisdiction of the Santipore thana. Dr. Atar Ali is the most competent Musalman for an Honorary Magistrateship.

(d)—Education.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

20. A Santipur correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 26th December is unable to say that there is lawlessness in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, (Report on Native Papers for 26th December, paragraph 14), simply because the office did not promptly comply with a request to be supplied with the number of marks obtained by a plucked candidate from the Santipur Jubilee Madrassa. Such delay is perfectly excusable, especially as the Inspector is absent in the Mufassal. The Santipur Jubilee Madrassa has

always received kind support from the present Inspector, and owes much to him and to the superior clerks of his office. That institution, at least, ought to have no cause of complaint against the Inspector's office.

21. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 28th December is glad to observe that the Sanskrit College is showing marked improvement under the management of its new Principal. Its students are passing the University Examinations with credit. There has been great improvement in the mode of teaching. The new Principal has infused new life into the College.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

22. The *Som Prakash* of the 28th December says that in conferring both the recent appointments to the Central Text-Book Committee on Hindus, Government has been guilty of gross partiality to the Hindus at the cost of the Musalmans. The backward condition of Muhammadan education earnestly calls for the appointment of some Musalman members to the Committee. It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will see his way to appoint Maulvi Abdul Karim, Assistant Inspector of Schools, as a member of the Committee.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

23. Sir Alfred Croft, observes the *Hitaishi* of the 29th December, has been praised in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the eve of his retirement. Sir Alfred was no doubt qualified to fill the highest post in the Education Department. But he has done nothing for which he can deserve public praise. He has always been busy in making himself conspicuous in the pleasure parties in the Lieutenant-Governor's palace, and he could possibly have no time left for solid and substantial work. Even on the eve of his retirement Sir Alfred Croft has done something to make his name remembered. He has been instrumental in curtailing the grants to private schools. This policy introduced by Sir Alfred will, in course of time, be carried to its fullest extent, and the grants to private schools will be stopped.

HITAISHI,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st December makes the following observations with reference to the memorial regarding the Vernacular Examinations which has been addressed to the Director of Public Instruction by the *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad*:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1896.

The system of a fourfold Vernacular Examination inaugurated by Sir George Campbell remains unchanged. This being the case, the two primary and the two middle examinations cannot, as a general rule, be connected with the Entrance and other University Examinations. Sir George Campbell's object was to make the middle examinations final for boys of the lower classes. In exceptional cases a student may, after passing these examinations, further prosecute his studies and prepare himself for the University examinations. But these exceptional cases cannot override the general rule. We do not know whether this question was at all raised in the Parishad, but it is certain that if it was raised, Sir George Campbell's system was discredited by the members. This suspicion is strengthened when we see that the Parishad has recommended the abolition of mensuration from the curriculum of the lower primary examination. Very little of mensuration is learnt from arithmetic and *Subhankari*, and Sir George Campbell wanted to see most boys finish their study in the primary classes. Hygiene was Sir George Campbell's hobby. It is still the passion with most officials. If it had not been so the Government would not have translated and published Cunningham's book on Hygiene at its own cost. To abolish Hygiene as a subject of study from the curriculum of the lower primary examination, and to introduce it into the course of study as a part and parcel of general literature, is not certainly consonant with Sir George's educational policy.

The *Sahitya Parishad* further proposes the abolition of geometry and mensuration from the curriculum of the upper primary examination on the ground that they are not suited to the capacity of the upper primary students. Such a proposal as this would have driven Sir George Campbell mad. It was his intention that the boys of the lower classes should finish their study in the primary classes and that they should therefore be taught Geometry and Mensuration before they left these classes. As for hygiene, its study was

intimately connected with Sir George's educational policy and it is so even with Government's present educational policy. The *Parishad* recommends the introduction of agriculture as a compulsory subject of study in the primary examinations. In this it has beaten even Sir George Campbell hollow. Sir Ashley Eden, distinctly said in his minutes and resolutions that Indian agriculturists did not want a book-knowledge of agriculture to till the soil.

We have no objection to the *Parishad's* recommendation that there should be a uniformity in the course of study in Geography in the lower and the upper primary classes. Sir George Campbell, however, wanted to restrict the scope of Geography in the lower primary classes. The *Parishad* further recommends that there may be two books in the prose portion of Bengali literature taught in the middle schools. There should be text-books containing lessons in physical science, and there should be text-books containing moral lessons in the form of stories and precepts. It appears that the *Parishad* is more in favour of detached moral lessons than of a long continuous story like the *Silar Banavas*. We have no objection to this, but we should like to see more attention given to purity of style in the text-books on Bengali prose, a point which is at present sadly neglected. We do not approve of the proposal that only History of India should be taught in the vernacular classes. The geography of the whole world will be taught; and it is not advisable to restrict the study of history, especially when geography is only accessory to history. It will no doubt be enough to teach the general principles of physical science in the vernacular classes, but it goes against Sir George Campbell's educational policy to make hygiene and physical science optional with English literature in the middle schools. In the opinion of Sir George Campbell the study of English in the middle schools was a minor point, the principal object being to teach the boys all the other subjects in their mother tongue. But the *Parishad* seems to take a wholly different view of the matter. It seems to think that as boys will read hygiene and science in the Entrance and the higher classes after passing the middle examination, the teaching of these subjects in the middle schools is superfluous and unnecessary. But Sir George Campbell expected that the boys of the lower classes would finish their education in the middle schools, and he, therefore, wanted to stock their minds with a multifarious and many-sided knowledge.

The *Parishad* further proposes that the rule newly introduced that no student shall be allowed to appear in the upper primary examination without passing the lower primary examination, should be abolished. If this restriction is abolished, similar restrictions in regard to the University examinations ought also to be abolished. It may, of course, be urged that we have to deal with young boys in the primary examinations, whereas we have to deal with grown up boys in the University examinations. But the educational authorities may advance Sir George Campbell's arguments, and say that the vernacular examinations are meant for boys of the lower classes who are not expected to prosecute their study any further. Those who want their boys to prepare for the University examinations should have them admitted in the Entrance schools. In those exceptional cases in which boys of the lower classes will give proof of uncommon intelligence, the restrictions complained of will not stand in the way of their further prosecuting their studies.

(c)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

25. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th December considers the protest by the Calcutta Corporation's protest. Municipal Commissioners against the Lieutenant-Governor's Palmer's Bridge speech unnecessary after the censure which has been passed upon His Honour for it. The protest would have been proper and seasonable if it had been made earlier. The censure, though secretly given, has been seen by the writer.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

26. The *Pratihar* of the 25th December advises the Murshidabad District Board to take up without more delay, the Lieutenant-Governor's circular relating to the sources of village water-supply, the consideration of which was postponed on account of the setting in of the rainy season. The lists

asked for by Government should be prepared through the agency of the thana darogas and verified by the help of the District Engineer and the Local Boards. Correct lists will enable the Government to request zamindars to provide for water-supply where necessary. This is the proper time to take action in the matter.

27. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 26th December is of opinion that the Calcutta Corporation having protested in a moderate and polite manner, none of the Commissioners present at the protest meeting should have felt offended, and His Honour, too, should take no umbrage. Protest is not treated with contempt by high-minded men; and the people of Bengal see in their present ruler a high-minded official who is always willing to pay due deference to public opinion. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the difference between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Municipality will be quietly settled.

SARASWAT PATRA.
Dec. 26th, 1896.

28. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 26th December cannot understand why the Malda District Board rejected the application of Munshi Abed Ali Khan for the vacant post of sub-overseer under it, and gave the situation to a Hindu sub-overseer who was employed under the Bankura District Board. Munshi Abed Ali submitted certificates of having passed the Middle Vernacular Examination and the Sub-Overseership Examination of the Sibpur College respectively, and certificates of fitness from the Inspector of Local Works, Bihar Division, and the Commissioner of the Patna Division. He had, moreover, served, for some time as a draughtsman under the Malda District Board. Another post of sub-overseer was vacant, and it, too, was given to a Hindu sub-overseer from Bankura. The Malda District Board's treatment of Abed Ali appears rather strange, considering that it was the District Board itself which sent him to the Sibpur College to pass the Sub-Overseership Examination, and that Abed Ali has turned out a most competent sub-overseer.

MIHIR-O SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

29. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 26th December writes that a *mela* is going to be held in Sunamganj in the Sylhet district, and the Local Board has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 300 in aid of it. The Local Board does not hesitate to waste its money on nautches and theatricals, but has no money to spare when the question is one of digging tanks and wells in villages where acute water scarcity prevails.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

30. The *Sanjivani* of the 26th December has the following with reference to the protest meeting lately held by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta:—

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

Everybody ought to carefully consider how this quarrel of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta with the Lieutenant-Governor will end. That there are plague spots in Calcutta goes without saying. The municipal executive are no doubt to blame for their existence, but neither are the Commissioners entirely blameless. The Lieutenant-Governor no doubt committed a sad mistake in not taking the executive to task and in throwing the whole blame on the Commissioners. It was nevertheless quite inadvisable on the latter's part to censure the Lieutenant-Governor, so to speak, in a public meeting. The Commissioners would have done better if they had sent a written defence of their conduct to His Honour. The papers written by Babus Kalinath Mitra and Nalin Bihari Sarkar would have served the purpose very well. The Lieutenant-Governor would have then found out his mistake and given the Commissioners praise instead of blame. It is to be expected, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor will not be found fault with by the public in other parts of the country. It will certainly be wrong to quarrel with a kind-hearted and high-minded ruler like Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

31. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 29th December makes the following observations with reference to the protest meeting lately held by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

Most of the European Commissioners left the meeting in a pet. They wanted to postpone the discussions, simply to save Dr. Simpson, but failed. Being Municipal Commissioners, themselves, they ought not to have insulted

their brother Commissioners and the Corporation in this way. This ungentlemanly conduct on their part was strongly criticised by the meeting. Even good European Commissioners cannot but condemn their conduct. Matters have now been carried to an extreme. Under the present circumstances the Health Officer must have either to resign or try his best to discomfit the Commissioners by exercising some influence on the Lieutenant-Governor, through Mr. Risley and other influential Europeans. If he has a grain of gentlemanliness in him he should at once resign. Fifteen hundred rupees a month ought to be no consideration for sticking to a post which he ought to resign under the present circumstances. No, not even fifteen thousand rupees a month should be any consideration with him.

No one can say where this Municipal squabble will end or how many Resolutions will be issued by the Lieutenant-Governor. The curtain, however, is not soon going to drop. Let us hope that the end will be comic and not tragic. But the Lieutenant-Governor has threatened the Commissioners with a new Municipal Act. And nothing is easier in this country than to pass laws.

DAINIK O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

32. The Lieutenant-Governor, observes the same paper, has resolved to punish the Municipal Commissioners with a rigorous Municipal Act. In this Act the Municipal rates and the rigour of building regulations

are likely to be increased. The Lieutenant-Governor gave a forecast of the threatened Act in his opening speech at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council. It is not possible even for a Lieutenant-Governor to do away with local self-government; but it is quite easy to restrict it. A Native, so goes the story, once threatened a European with the law. In reply, the European asked him whether the law he boasted of was made by a Native or a European. It is not, however, quite advisable or safe to widen the gulf between the rulers and the ruled. Will it benefit the Government if Calcutta is made too hot for the natives? Will their discontent do it good? Sir Alexander Mackenzie ought to be a little more cautious. He is the best ruler who can promote the happiness and increase the contentment of the ruled.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 21st, 1896.

33. The *Charu Mihir* of the 21st December says that the Railway line from Mymensingh to Jamalpur, which is under construction, should pass straight through Muktagacha, instead of being connected with the latter place by a branch line from Begumbari.

There is a rumour that the alignment of this line has been made an occasion, by dishonest people, for extorting money from poor villagers. It should be ascertained whether the rumour has any foundation in fact, and if it has, the matter should be properly dealt with.

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec. 24th, 1896.

34. The *Vikrampur* of the 24th December says that the gradual silting up of the Hansail khal in Vikrampur in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district, having put a stop to the import trade of the place, prices there are ruling very high. It is hoped that the Local Board will see its way to re-excavating the khal.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

35. The *Pratihar* of the 25th December says that though Government levies tolls, amounting to some lakhs of rupees, upon the rivers Bhagirathi, Churni, Bhairab, Kharia and Mathabhanga, which flow through the Nadia and Murshidabad districts, it has done little to keep the rivers in a navigable condition. The silting up of these rivers is the cause of the declining health and prosperity of these two districts. Money is wasted on the frontiers, but no heed is paid to the real needs of the country.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

36. The *Bangavasi* of the 26th December complains that the Nadia rivers are gradually silting up. If prompt measures are not taken to dredge them, they will soon dry up. The Government's toll revenue has already been reduced from three lakhs to a lakh and a half a year, and will become nil if it still remains indifferent in the matter. The silting up of the

rivers will not only seriously affect the Government's revenue, but will also make the sanitary condition of Nadia quite intolerable, and deprive hundreds of fishermen and boatmen of their living. The District Board and the district authorities should no longer remain indifferent. In the present distress the dredging of these rivers may be taken up as a relief measure.

(h)—General.

37. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 25th December complains that within the last five or six months six vacancies in the Military Accounts Office have been filled up by outsiders to the utter disregard of the claims of apprentices who are serving in the office for many years after passing an examination. Very lately a Eurasian apprentice who did not stand high in the examination has been appointed to a post, to the disappointment of native apprentices who stood higher. Such jobberies could not take place when Mr. Anderson was the Pay Examiner. But now that he is gone, the standing orders regarding the appointment of apprentices are being violated. The authorities seem to entertain a great dislike for Bengali apprentices and always try their best to appoint Europeans and Eurasians to vacant posts.

SAMAY,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

38. The *Sulabh Samachar* of the 26th December writes as follows:—
Of all the departments of Government, the post-office is the largest and the best managed. Its work is done most efficiently and with the greatest despatch possible, for which those that are entrusted with its management are certainly entitled to the thanks of the public. The postal authorities maintain a strict discipline among their subordinates, and keep a sharp eye upon their conduct. The Government service would have been purged of all its sins and shortcomings if the heads of all other departments had kept an equally strict watch over the conduct of their subordinates. Efficiently managed as is the postal department, it can transact the work of a few other departments, such as the Telegraph, the Stamp and the Registration Departments, much better than it is at present, if they are amalgamated with it. By such amalgamation the Government will secure the maximum of work at the minimum of cost. Better paid postmasters will be able to satisfactorily transact the business connected with the Registration, the Telegraph and the Stamp Departments.

SULABH SAMACHAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

It is a matter of regret that the post office employes are low-paid. Their pay is not commensurate, at least, with the responsibilities they have to discharge and the hard labour they have to undergo. The post-office is a lucrative department and the authorities can, if they are so disposed, increase the pay of the postal employes from the peon to the postmaster.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

39. The *Sahachar* of the 23rd December says that the public have been disappointed at seeing an experienced and profound lawyer like Babu Mohini Mohun Rai thrown out of the Supreme Legislative Council. Considering the ability with which Mohini Babu discharged his duties in the Council, there was a sanguine expectation that he would be re-appointed. It is a matter of congratulation, however, that a man like Babu Joy Gobinda Law, who possesses wide experience in commercial matters, has been appointed to the vacant seat. Joy Gobinda Babu's appointment is expected to be a decided gain to the country. But when there is the practice of taking a Barrister into the Council, and when two members of the native Bar have also been successively taken, it was expected that Government would make it a practice to reserve a seat for a vakil of the High Court as well.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 23rd, 1896.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th December observes as follows:—
We are grieved at the replies which were given on behalf of Government to the interpellations which were made at the meeting of the Bengal Council held on the 19th December last. We see that, like Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is bent upon screening guilty officials.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

The replies which were given to the questions of Babu Guruprasad Sen on the subject of the purchase of a piece of land at Sonapur are indeed plausible. But is every resolution of a District Board to be sanctioned by the Local Government simply because no fault can be found with the proceedings of the Board in connection with that resolution? It appears by Governments' own showing that the piece of land which has been purchased by the Saran District Board will benefit mainly Europeans, and that for only two weeks in the year. Is it right or reasonable to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 32,243 for the benefit of a particular class, which is to last for no more than two weeks in the year? In the present case the District Board's freedom was completely fettered by a note of the Divisional Commissioner, approving of the purchase; for it is mainly composed of Government servants.

Mr. Risley stated on behalf of Government:—"The District Board acted not only under section 100 (3) of the Act, but also under section 87, which empowers a District Board to provide for the proper sanitation of its district and to incur such expenses or undertake such liabilities as may be necessary in that behalf."

But was it the object of the Legislature that the powers to which Government refers here should be exercised for an object like the above? How again, can the purchase of a piece of land for the residence of Englishmen for two weeks in the year have the effect of promoting the sanitation of the entire district? It may be true, as Government says, that the District Board has no debts, but that is no reason why it should waste its money. Government says that "no necessary expenditure on roads, &c., has been curtailed." Are we to understand from this that no new road, school, hospital or drain is needed in any part of the Saran district? If any such roads, &c., are needed, would not the sum spent for the purchase of the land have gone some way to supply the want? Does Government really think that the people will be delighted at such a waste of money? If the District Board has really more money than it knows how to spend, should not Government lighten taxation at this time of distress? While Government sanctions such a waste of money by a District Board, it is unwilling to sanction even trifling expenditure by municipalities on useful works. In the very same meeting of the Council in which Government supported the above expenditure by the District Board, Mr. Risley replied as follows to a question put by Babu Surendranath Banerji:—

"The Government does not approve of the expenditure of municipal funds on higher education, while the conservancy and water-supply of any town is inadequately provided for."

Does Sir Alexander Mackenzie then consider expenditure for a temporary comfort of the English visitors to the Sonapur fair more useful than that for the diffusion of high education?

The replies to the other questions were also most unsatisfactory. We are re-assured to learn that proper relief arrangements are being made, but grieved to hear that no increase of salary will be allowed to Government servants receiving small salaries. Government is spending a large sum of money every year to remove an imaginary inconvenience of the English officers, but it will not lift its little finger to relieve the distress of its poor native servants. Such is the justice of the English Government!

Government is unwilling to punish guilty officers. It would not punish Messrs. Wheeler and Lister. What wonder, then, that the officials should become bolder?

HITAVADI.
Dec. 25th, 1896.

41. The same paper is sorry not to find any inclination on the part of the Bengal Government to introduce into the Council a Bill for the better management of religious endowments. Why should not Government move in the matter, when the leading men in the country request it to do so? A non-official member of the Council will probably ask for leave to introduce a Bill on the subject into the Council, and it is hoped that permission will be granted to him to do so.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th December says:—
English officers in Native States.

There are now too many English officers in the Native States. These officers do more harm than

good, as will become evident, if one only remembers that they receive large salaries and are, at the same time, in the highest degree refractory. It does not appear probable that native princes should, of their own accord, employ officers so costly and so unmanageable. Numerous instances might be cited to show how disobedient these English officers in Native States are. The troubles of the Rajas of Nahan and Travancore must be still fresh in the public mind. We will now speak of the Maharaja of Gwalior. One of the provisions in the last will of the late Maharaja Jiyaji Rao Scindia, was that no Englishmen should be employed under his successor. This will was recognised as genuine by the English Government, and yet, strangely enough, scarcely had the Maharaja breathed his last when Mr. Johnstone, Dr. McGough, and an English lady doctor were appointed in the Gwalior State. Last year the services of several native officers were dispensed with as a measure of retrenchment of expenditure, but new English officers were at the same time appointed, and one English officer is as costly as ten native ones. When Messrs. Johnstone and Croft were appointed, Government said that their services would be dispensed with as soon as the Maharaja came of age. The Maharaja has now attained his majority and yet their services have not been dispensed with.

43. The same paper writes as follows:—

A tribunal for the trial of Native Princes.

There is no denying the fact that Native Princes are often grievously oppressed. A Native Prince does not possess even the freedom which a common subject enjoys in this country. Every act of a Native Prince must, under heavy penalties, be sanctioned by the Political Resident. Whether a Native Prince wishes to go to some place, or to appoint or dismiss a servant, or to introduce some measure for the benefit of his State, he must first obtain the sanction of the Political Resident. It is not possible to restrict a man's freedom more closely or narrowly. Over and above this there is the sharp weapon of conspiracy. If, for some reason, a Native Prince incurs the displeasure of the Political Resident, or his enemies gain the favour of that officer, there is every risk of the Native Prince's powers being lopped off by the sharp weapons of the conspirators. There are numerous instances to show this.

The wrong which is done by Political Residents is not redressed. Even if a Native Prince has the courage to complain against the Political Resident or to defend himself against charges preferred against him by that officer, neither his complaint nor his defence is perused by the Viceroy himself. Complaint, as well as defence, is sent to the Member in charge of the Foreign Department, who supports the Political Resident, whether he is right or wrong. The result is that the Native Prince is either deprived of his powers, or is deposed or is banished—witness the fate of the Begum of Bhopal, of the Maharaja of Cashmere, of the Rana of Jhalwar and of the Raja of Patna.

The English Government ought not to behave so cruelly towards the Native Princes, who are its sincere well-wishers and the bulwark of the Empire, and who are always ready to spend blood and treasure in its defence. The English Government should know that though the Native Princes do not venture to protest against such treatment, they may yet be estranged from it in their hearts. It is a matter of deep regret that a Native Prince on his trial should not have even such opportunities of defending himself as a murderer has. We therefore request Government to establish a fair tribunal for the trial of Native Princes. So long as Government does not establish such a tribunal it will not be free from reproach.

The establishment of a tribunal like that recommended above may be objected to on the ground of political inexpediency. But if the dealings of the Political Department be fair, nothing need be feared from their being made public.

The present system of secret trial was not always in vogue. The Gaekwar of Baroda was deposed after a public trial. Who will tell us why this change has come upon the spirit of British policy in regard to the Native Princes?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

44. The *Sansodhini* of the 11th December makes a spirited appeal to Mr. Skrine, Commissioner of the Chittagong Division. The time has come when all petty differences

The impending famine in the Chittagong Division.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 11th, 1896.

and quarrels should be made up, and the Government and the public should make one united effort to grapple with the impending calamity. Mr. Skrine is a kind man, and it is gratifying to see that he has been moved by the sight of the prevailing distress, and is trying heart and soul to save the lives of famine-stricken people. The writer, therefore, ventures to hope that Mr. Skrine will lend a hearing to the representation that he has to make. The outturn of rice has this year been very small in Chittagong, but a large quantity of it is being exported, and if exportation goes on at the present rate, the existing stock will be soon exhausted and the empty granaries will not be refilled with imported corn. Somehow or other the exportation of corn from Chittagong should be stopped, and the best way of doing this will be to adopt the following course of action:—Let the Commissioner borrow Rs. 14,000, without interest, from the rich people of Chittagong, who will gladly lend the money and also raise Rs. 7,000 by public subscriptions. With this money let him buy paddy at the rate of two *arhis*, and sell it at the rate of three *arhis* to poor people. By this means twelve hundred people will get paddy at a cheap rate for one year. Those who cannot buy corn, even at this cheap rate, should be taken care of by the Government. The duty of distributing relief should be entrusted not to heartless police officers but to respectable native gentlemen of Chittagong, who will no doubt gladly offer their services.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 22nd, 1896.

45. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 22nd December, writes as follows:—

How the middle classes are to be helped in the distress.

In addressing the wealthy native gentlemen assembled at the Belvedere Darbar, the Lieutenant-Governor referred to the difficulties to which middle class men are put in times of famine, because the stringent rules, under which Government relief is given, almost preclude the possibility of their availing of that relief, and pointed it out as a duty of the rich men of the country to help these people. In England, Sir Richard Temple said the same thing in reference to the middle classes when he heard of the famine in India. Everybody, in fact, who knows Indian society, will say the same thing.

A friend of ours was appointed a Relief Officer during the last famine in Bengal. He learnt on private enquiry that a certain Brahman was in great distress, as he hardly got two meals a day and often did not get a single meal in the course of a whole day. But the Brahman was a respectable man of the village and would on no account accept the rice which was being given away by Government. One evening our friend went to the man and had a talk with him on various topics, and did not forget to inform him that he was a Relief Officer. But the Brahman asked for no help. At last our friend was obliged to directly enquire about the man's condition. The poor Brahman was perplexed at the enquiry and said that the produce of a few bighas of land, together with the small voluntary gifts of money which were made by his *sishtyas* enabled him to live from hand to mouth, but that his *sishtyas*, not being rich men, and he having received no produce from his lands for the last two years, he felt a little pinch now. He added—"there is God above, and His will be done." But he did not express the slightest wish to accept charity at the hands of Government. The Relief Officer, on enquiry, also learnt that the Brahman had a widowed daughter dependent on him.

The next morning our friend sent a man to the Brahman's daughter with rice, dāl, salt and a few pice which would suffice her and her father for four or five days, instructing the messenger to leave the things with the lady without saying anything about where the articles and the pice came from. When the Brahman heard of this from his daughter, he went straightway to the Relief Officer and told him—"Sir, I have some honour and respect in the village, why are you trying to humiliate me in the eyes of the public?" The Relief Officer felt ashamed, and it was only after much persuasion that he succeeded in inducing the Brahman to accept an allowance of Rs. 2 a month.

The above case illustrates the situation in which middle-class men in this country are placed in times of famine. They cannot beg. Begging is worse than death to them. They will court death rather than accept another man's charity. It is therefore a most happy thing that Government has realised the situation of this class of its subjects. But how is their distress to be relieved? It will not do for the Government to remain idle itself, after exhorting the rich men to help the middle-classes. In a widespread famine like the present one,

private charity will be able to do very little. None but the Government will be able adequately to cope with it. But how is the Government to proceed in the case of the class of people in question? That class get their livelihood either by service under Government, merchants, railway administrations or zamindars, or by cultivating a few bighas of land. To help those who derive their income from service, Government should temporarily increase the salaries of its own servants and make a request to merchants and railway administrations to follow its example. As for those who live upon the produce of their lands, Government should provide for their getting rice at a cheap price, and advance to them loans on a small interest or without interest.

46. On a review of the Statements of the Import and Export of food-grains into and from Calcutta and the places near it, which have been published in the last few issues of the *Calcutta Gazette*, the *Sahachar* of the 23rd

Government's duty in the distress in Bengal.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 23rd, 1896.

December has come to the conclusion that as the export of food-grains has of itself considerably declined, owing to the rise in prices, there is no necessity of interfering with the export trade of the country. But Government should place traders in possession of reports showing the outturn of the winter rice throughout the province and the prospects of the rabi crop. This information will enable them to ascertain how much they should import, and as they will import, prices will be likely to fall. There is, in fact, no other means of bringing down the prices.

This year's produce will feed the province till the month of Falgun, at the longest; and scarcity is sure to be felt from the month of Chaitra. Government must start relief works for the labouring classes and give gratuitous relief to the poor gentry from that month. It should keep itself prepared to meet the situation, or it will find the country depleted of all its food by that time. It has thus become imperatively necessary to supply the grain merchants with accurate information regarding the condition of the crops.

The present famine is without a precedent in the history of India, and will put Lord Elgin's statesmanship to the severest test. It is hoped that both the Supreme Government and the Local Administrations will fully realise the heavy responsibility which rests upon them, and meet the distress so that not a single man may die of starvation.

47. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 24th December is sorry that the Viceroy still persists in denying the existence of actual famine in India and has dissuaded the Secretary of State from accepting the offers of help made by the people of England.

The Viceroy in the distress.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 24th, 1896.

48. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini*, of the 25th December, writing from Sitakund in the Chittagong district, says that people will die of starvation if 25,000 maunds of rice is not imported into the place from other parts of the province. The total local outturn will not amount to 4 annas, and the condition of the poor and middle-class people has become simply deplorable. Many of them are already starving or living on insufficient meals. Rice of the worst quality is selling at 8 seers 8 chittaks per rupee, and every other necessary of life has risen proportionately in price.

Distress in the Chittagong district.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

49. The *Hitavadi* of the 25th December says that there is a terrible famine in the country. It cannot be said that the officials do not know this. But though aware of the extent of the distress, many of them are not sufficiently careful to remedy the evil. All officials from the Viceroy down to the District Magistrate have taken up the same cry. They all call upon the public to render help. The people of the country pay the objectionable income-tax and the road cess to provide a famine fund. How can then Government ask them to pay further money for the relief of distress? Mr. Lyall, Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has called upon the public to help the distressed. He says:— "Government is only the custodian of the tax-payers' money, and it cannot spend that money as it wishes." The writer does not know how long Mr. Lyall has become so scrupulous about the tax-payers' money. Do the officials remember that they are only the custodians of the tax-payers' money when they grant exchange compensation, when they defray the expenses of the Egyptian war

The officials in the distress.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

from the Indian exchequer, when they misappropriate the Famine Relief Fund? It is the people themselves who are now calling upon Government to be open-handed, and why is not the custodian of their money responding to their call?

It is not Mr. Lyall alone who is acting in this way; many others are acting like him. On Wednesday the 23rd instant, Mr. Garrett, Magistrate of Nadia, held a meeting in the Circuit House, the object of which will be clear from the following notice:—

“A public meeting will be held on the 23rd instant, at 8 A.M. in the Circuit House compound, to appoint a General Committee to invite subscriptions for the relief of the distress and to make all necessary arrangements. You are specially invited to attend.”

If the officials had taken due precautions and been open-handed in time, the public would not have had to hear of deaths from starvation. Now that hundreds of people are dying of starvation, Government has awoken from its long sleep. But even now it is not rendering any help itself, but is calling upon the public to render all the assistance they can. When it has collected subscriptions from the public, it will make relief arrangements. The delay that has been made in making relief arrangements cannot now be helped, but there should be no further delay in the matter.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

50. The residents of thanas Kaliganj and Asasuni in the Khulna district, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 26th December, bless the Government for opening relief works in those places and thereby saving the labouring classes from starvation, and say that the only thing that remains to be done is to take adequate measures for relieving the distress of the poor gentry, the women, the children and those who on account of age or infirmity cannot earn wages by labour.

The flight of locusts which visited this part of the district on the 26th November last did great damage to pulses, mustard and other *rabi* crops.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1896.

51. The *Bangavasi* of the 26th December has the following:—

The Government in the distress: In the opinion of the Provincial authorities, the time has not yet come for the Government to lend a helping hand to the distressed people. They fear waste and extravagance, and are, by their procrastination, sacrificing hundreds of human lives at the altar of Famine. To keep up its prestige and dignity, however, the Government has not entirely ignored the necessity of helping the suffering poor, and the officials themselves have come forward to beg for alms. In Nagpur and Bombay, in the Punjab and the Central Provinces, public meetings were held under official auspices, for the purpose of raising subscriptions in aid of the starving millions. At the Belvedere Darbar the Lieutenant-Governor called upon the “aristocracy and the plutocracy” of Bengal to help their poor countrymen, suffering from food and water scarcity. If there is no suffering, no scarcity in the country—if the time has not yet come for the Government to help the people—why this official alms-begging, this raising of subscriptions, this going round of the hat?

If you have no money, if the public exchequer is empty, say so plainly. You have misused the Famine Fund in the face of the solemn declaration of a former Viceroy that not a pice of it shall be misspent and that not a single individual shall be allowed to die from starvation. You have ignored that declaration, you have violated that promise. Confess this plainly. This is not the time for shuffling and mincing matters, for maintaining hollow prestige and official solemnity. This is not the time for making false honour assert itself. The lives of millions of people are in jeopardy. It will be to your eternal shame and discredit if, blinded by a false sense of dignity, you fail to ascertain the real condition of the people, or, having ascertained it, if you do not come to their rescue. Proud of your prowess, you may not care for the condemnation of the public, and may delude your countrymen and your neighbours in Europe with optimistic reports and resolutions. But what answer will you give, what defence will you make of your conduct, before Him who sent those people to this world with a life to enjoy, but who have died from starvation simply through your indifference and supineness?

You declare that the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is helping starving people with all his soul. But what is this we hear from

a Mirzapore correspondent? "Mirzapore is about to be swamped with starving beggars reduced to skeletons. Well-to-do towns-people, both Native and European, are helping them to the best of their ability, but their mite of help is like a drop in the ocean. The condition of the children is indeed piteous. Starving people are dying by the score on the roadside. Alms are not always to be had even in the town, and hundreds are going without a morsel of food or a piece of rag in this depth of winter." Is the Viceroy prepared to believe this Bengali correspondent, and make better and ampler provision for the starving millions?

The state of things is no better in Bengal. In the last *Calcutta Gazette* the Lieutenant-Governor has, though not without some hesitation, admitted the existence of acute scarcity in several parts of Bengal and Bihar. He has ordered the opening of relief works in several centres. It is quite clear that the officials have not this time been able to entirely ignore the existence of scarcity. But whether they admit its existence or not, there is no ignoring, no hushing of the acute scarcity prevailing in the country. In many Bengal villages poor people are actually starving. Doles of private charity have so long supported many lives, but will be of little avail now. Let the Government now open its treasury and help the starving people without stint. Let it atone for the sin it has committed by misusing the Famine Fund. What has been done cannot be undone. But let the authorities remember Lord Lytton's sacred promise and try their best to fulfil it. Let them strengthen the people's confidence in the justice and integrity of British rule.

52. A correspondent of the same paper complains of acute scarcity in Belgachi, a village in the Purnea district. The poor people are actually starving. Many are living on raw brinjals and wild plants. Coarse rice is selling at 9 or 10 seers per rupee. The *aman* crop will not last the people for more than two months. The *rabi* crop has failed. About 1,000 to 1,500 maunds of rice are being daily exported from Belgachi and the neighbouring villages.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 20th, 1896.

53. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 26th December requests the district authorities of Darbhanga to keep a strict watch over the conduct of the corn-dealers of Samastipur. In other places in Bihar, thanks to the vigilance of the authorities, the corn-dealers cannot raise the prices of corn at their sweet will and pleasure, as they are doing in Samastipur. In a week they have raised the price of rice from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per maund. These corn-dealers are also in the habit of using false weights and thereby cheating their customers.

SANJIVANI
Dec. 26th, 1896.

54. The same paper complains of heavy exportation of corn from this country even during the present distress. The people will fare very badly if the Government does not come to their rescue and put a stop to this export.

SANJIVANI.

55. A correspondent of the same paper complains of food and water scarcity in Harina Kundu and twelve other villages in the Jessore district. The tanks and wells are all exhausted. Rice is selling at Rs. 4-12 per maund.

SANJIVANI.

56. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th December has the following:—

The Government in the distress. The Lieutenant-Governor is not idle. He is taking all necessary steps to grapple with the impending calamity. It would have gone hard with the people had Sir Charles Elliott been in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's place. The Lieutenant-Governor has found an able co-adjutor in Mr. Finucane, who is distinguished for his knowledge of the condition of the agricultural population of Bengal and his sympathy with the distressed and the suffering. With his able assistant, Mr. Bhupal Chandra Basu, Mr. Finucane is travelling through the famine-stricken districts and seeing things with his own eyes. His mind is now solely occupied with thoughts of the famine, and his sole object now is to concert the best measures possible for saving human life. He is trying his best to infuse his own zeal, ardour and sympathy into the hearts of all district officers. Nothing can escape his vigilant and watchful

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 27th, 1896.

eye, and public officers who appear to be indifferent or are trying to minimise the prevailing distress have incurred his displeasure and received his censure.

In Bengal Proper the distress is most acute in the Presidency Division. Khulna and Nadia are the districts most affected. Mr. Bhupal Chandra Basu lately paid a visit to Satkhira. From his report Mr. Finucane will no doubt know the true state of things in that subdivision. It is a relief that Mr. Beatson-Bell will be placed in charge of the Khulna district. Mr. Beatson-Bell has a heart. With all his faults, he is a kind-hearted man and has great sympathy with the poor and the distressed. It is a man like him that should be entrusted with the carrying on of famine relief works. In many parts of the Satkhira subdivision, specially in the Kaliganj thana, the distress has reached its climax. People are living on wild roots and plants and the pulp of the date tree; but even these are becoming rare. The agriculturists and labourers are leaving their villages and going away in search of food and employment. Most are being half-starved and many are actually starving. The police is quite indifferent. It is in most places following its old policy of ignoring the distress and hushing it up. It is registering deaths from starvation as deaths from diseases. But this old policy should be given up. Sir Charles Elliott is no longer the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and neither Sir Alexander Mackenzie nor his able Secretary, Mr. Finucane, is the man who will encourage or countenance this policy.

The zamindars, talukdars and gantidars of Satkhira should co-operate with the Government in coping with the calamity. Mr. Finucane should invite them all to come to the rescue of their suffering countrymen. Babu Gati Krishna Niyogi, Subdivisional Officer of Satkhira, is trying his best to save life. All Deputy Magistrates should follow his example. There should be no Fazlul Karim this time to deny the existence of famine. There is no need of so doing now that a kind and sympathetic Governor like Sir Alexander Mackenzie is at the helm of affairs.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.
Dec. 27th, 1896.

57. Mr. Goodridge, observes the same paper, writes in the *Englishman* that acute distress prevails in the Central Provinces. The Viceroy, however, tried to ignore the existence of even this acute distress. Mr. Goodridge says that the Viceroy was misinformed by the provincial authorities. We could have understood this excuse had not Lord Elgin made it a point to minimise the prevailing distress in all his tour speeches. Subordinates are naturally in the habit of singing to the tune of their superiors, and the officials of the Central Provinces no doubt caught the contagion of the Viceroy's optimism. Mr. Goodridge says that the prevailing distress in the Central Provinces is much more acute than the Madras famine of 1877, which killed fifty lakhs of people. Mortality has enormously risen in the Central Provinces. The rate of mortality is in many places so high as 138 or 139 per thousand. In the Jubbulpur Division it is 182 per thousand in Marwar and 225 per thousand in Sihora. Let those who, even under these circumstances, would leave the Government alone in coping with the acute and widespread distress, who, to spite the Government for its misuse of the Famine Fund, would allow their countrymen to die from starvation, or would point to the road and the public works cesses as the resources which should be drawn upon to grapple with the impending calamity, hold congress meetings at Beadon Square or go about marketing in the Amrita Bazar.

HITAISHI,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

58. A correspondent of the *Hitaishi* of the 29th December complains that deaths from starvation are occurring in the Ashashuni thana in the Khulna district. Deaths from starvation are also reported from other parts of the district as well as from Nadia. The Lieutenant-Governor should take as prompt measures in meeting the distress in Bengal as he has done in coping with the famine in Bihar.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Dec. 24th, 1896.

59. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 24th December says that Mr. Rahmutulla Sayani, who is going to be the President of the ensuing National Congress, has no voice in the affairs of the Muhammadan community, and cannot, therefore, in any sense be said to represent that community at the

Congress. The Muhammadan community has not elected him as their delegate to the Congress.

60. A Noakhali correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 25th December writes to the following effect:—

Noakhali under its present Magistrate.

Noakhali is disappointed in its Bengali Magistrate. On the occasion of Sir Charles Elliott's visit to this district a subscription list was opened for the purpose of raising funds to commemorate His Honour's visit. Not to say anything about the means by which subscriptions were collected, the fund was spent, not on any useful purpose, but on the construction of a public hall. Some people were in favour of spending the money on the construction of a boarding-house for school-boys, a want long felt by the people of this district; but the District Magistrate did not like the idea.

The Magistrate has also got up at the public expense a theatrical company which is ruining school-boys. The Magistrate hardly attends his cutcherry, and is continually engaged in amusements.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 2nd January 1897.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 25th, 1896.

(Continued) The Bhutanese community has not elected him as their delegate to the Congress.

60. A Kachhi correspondent of the Times of the 15th January

TRANSACTED
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writes to the following effect:—
Kachhi is a district in the Punjab.

On the occasion of Mr. Chaudhary's visit to this district a representation was made to the Government of India to contribute to the Kachhi Education Fund. It was stated that the Government of India had not yet decided on the matter. The Kachhi Education Fund is a voluntary fund for the education of the Kachhi people. It is managed by the Kachhi Education Society. The Government of India has not yet decided on the matter. The Kachhi Education Fund is a voluntary fund for the education of the Kachhi people. It is managed by the Kachhi Education Society.

The Government has also got a letter from the Kachhi Education Society asking for a grant of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of the Kachhi Education Fund. The Government has not yet decided on the matter.

CHIEF MINISTER

15th January 1934